

RI 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of

March 23, 2012

Colony House – Newport

Chairman Ted Sanderson called the inaugural meeting of the RI 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission to order at 3:10 P.M at the Colony House in Newport, RI. In his welcoming remarks Chairman Sanderson noted that the charge of the Commission is to study the Royal Charter so as to impart of better understanding of the worldwide significance of the lively experiment it bestowed and to preserve the document more appropriately for the enjoyment of future generations.

On behalf of Governor Lincoln Chafee, Commissioner Jonathan Stevens thanked all the members for agreeing to serve and expressed the Governor's sentiments regarding the extraordinary significance of the Charter in religious liberty. Commissioner Stevens also expressed his hope that the lifespan of the Commission will exceed the 2013 anniversary and may lay a foundation to revisit the proper preservation and presentation of our archival treasures to help expand the reach of the documents into the educational spectrum of our school children.

Commissioner Paul Caranci expressed the similar sentiments of Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis is relaying the Secretary's gratitude to the Governor for taking the initiative to create the Commission as well as the Secretary's enthusiastic support of both the proper preservation and the appropriate display of the many treasures the Rhode Island State Archives holds.

Meeting host and Commissioner Ruth Taylor welcomed all to the Colony House; "one of the state's most important buildings."

Chairman Sanderson introduced the Commission members present and asked each Commissioner to provide a short personal biography so as to enhance their familiarity to the other members. (See the complete attendance list below.)

Commissioner Paul Caranci was appointed Recorder for the purpose of compliance with the open records act and he noted the need to judiciously post agendas and meeting minutes of the full Commission as well as all its official Committees.

Chairman Sanderson explained the Commission's mission statement as defined in Executive Order 12-3. The Order was clear in its definition of purpose and described that purpose in six charges. The Chairman established four Committees to perform the work of the mission. Those Committees include: the Executive Committee – Ted Sanderson Chair; the Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee – Eric Hertfelder and Betty Capozzi Co-chairs; the Charter

Conservation, Presentation and Design Committee – Jonathan Stevens and Gwenn Stearn Co-chairs; and the Charter Interpretation and Education Committee – Clark Greene and Al Klyberg Co-chairs.

As defined in the Executive Order, the Commission shall:

- 1. Organize a statewide celebration of the Charter's 350th anniversary utilizing venues in both Newport and Providence. This function will be the primary responsibility of the Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee.**
- 2. Review and recommend plans and design specifications for a new encasement for the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter in the RI State House. This will be accomplished primarily through the work of the Conservation, Presentation and Design Committee.**
- 3. Prepare a statement concerning the Charter's history. This will be a primary function of the Interpretation and Education Committee.**
- 4. Recommend plans to facilitate the high quality reproduction of the Charter to make it more available to scholars and schoolchildren alike. This responsibility will fall to the Interpretation and Education Committee.**
- 5. Create an educational program to raise awareness of Rhode Island's role in establishing religious freedom and individual liberties. The Interpretation and Education Committee will also take up this task as it attempts to provide a scholarly appreciation and understanding of what the Charter is.**
- 6. Solicit and accept grant and charitable funds or in-kind contributions from public and private individuals and organizations to**

fund these projects and programs. All Committees will work toward the achievement of this task.

Chairman Sanderson also distributed a Committee assignment sheet asking each member to review their assignments and recommend any changes that the Commissioners would like. To that end, Commissioner Zulette Catir requested to be moved from the Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee to the Interpretation and Education Committee. Garry Fischer and Dr. Clifford Brown also requested service to that Committee in addition to their original assignments. Upon a motion of Commissioner Caranci, second by Commissioner Leach, the list of Committees and the revised Committee assignment list were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Stevens distributed a list of potential grants that might be available to the Commission to carry out its purpose noting that one such grant offered by the Champlain Foundations has a very simple one-page initial application that is due April 30th. It is suggested that this grant application be given priority in the process in view of its April deadline.

In other business, Commissioner Marc Brodeur of EDC offered the use of the EDC offices as a venue for future meetings. He noted the central location and the availability of free parking as advantages of the site. Chairman Sanderson agreed to the use of the meeting site and the Commissioners selected Monday, April 23, 2012 as the next meeting date. The Committees were urged to meet at 3:00 P.M. with

the full Commission convening at 4:00 P.M. each at the offices of the Economic Development Corporation at 315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence 02908.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Caranci, second by Commissioner Leach, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Attendance List – March 23, 2012

Chairman Ted Sanderson Anna Links - Staff

Jon Stevens Paul F. Caranci

Tony Mendez Allison Maxell

Al Klyberg Michael Murray

Dr. C. Morgan Grefe David Leach, Esq.

Gwenn Stearn John McNiff

Ruth Taylor James Wermuth

Betty Capozzi Dr. Gary Fischer

Dr. Steve Lubar Dr. Clifford Brown

Ken Yellis Pieter Roos

Roseanna Gorham Zulette Catir

Dr. Stanley Lemons Mark ? - (Tourism)